

08/836075  
88 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 APR 1997  
#3/8

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

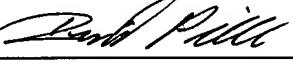
In re Application of: GEERT MAERTENS § Int'l App. No. PCT/EP95/04155  
and LIEVEN STUYVER §  
§ Group Art Unit: Unknown  
Serial No.: Unknown §  
§ Examiner: Unknown  
I.A. filing date: October 23, 1995 §  
§ Atty. Docket No.: INNS004/KAM  
For: NEW SEQUENCES OF HEPATITIS C §  
VIRUS GENOTYPES AND THEIR USE AS §  
PROPHYLACTIC, THERAPEUTIC AND §  
DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS §

*Dir. Plunkett*  
7/24/97

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL
NUMBER EM219702805US
DATE OF DEPOSIT April 21, 1997
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231.

_____ Signature

Preliminary to examining the above referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 8, 20, 38, 40, 51, 53, 59, and 62.

Please amend claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 13-15, 21-28, 30-36, 39, 41, 46-48, 54, and 61 as follows:

1. An HCV polynucleic acid, having a nucleotide sequence which is [unique to a theretofore unidentified HCV type or subtype which is] different from HCV subtypes 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 43, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4i, 4j, 4k, 4l, 4m, 5a, [or] 6a, 7a, 7c, 7d, 9, 10, or 11, [with said HCV subtypes being classified as